MR. C. PLAVIN,
NORTH STAR, ALBERTA.

EDMONTON AUG 19 1949 ALBERTA
CANADA 01 METRE

WITHIN OUR BORDERS

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY AUG 26 1961 EDMONTON

VOL. 2 EDMONTON, AUGUST 15, 1949 No. 3

Signs Will Denote Industrial Areas In Province

Information on Industrial Areas Will Be Outlined To Travellers At Selected Highway Locations

Attractive well constructed signs to tell of Alberta's present industrial wealth and her potential will be erected along main highways at various locations in the Province. This program is being sponsored by the Alberta Indutsrial Development Board. ,

The signs will provide factual information about industries. It is expected the information will be of interest and benefit to tourists visiting the province and, the same time, will remind Albertans of the industrial growth of their Province.

It was apparent that such industrial signs as those planned for erection were required when it was realized persons living in California, Oklahoma, or New York were coming into this Province to see at first hand Alberta's vast industrial wealth and potential. In the past few years persons in the U.S and eastern Canada have heard much about our oilfields. The new signs will aid them in finding these and other industrial areas when they visit the Province.

Placed At Drive-Ins

Without such aid, tourists to Alberta, could quite easily drive right past these industrial areas without knowning they had done so. The new signs will draw to their attention the industrial wealth of the particular area of Province through which they are motoring.

Information concerning the industry will be printed on a specially processed pine wood plaque. This plaque will measure about six feet by four feet and will be hung in a frame. The frame, ten feet by seven feet will feature natural finished pine log. The upright pillars will be cemented into a sturdy foundation completed in native stone.

These industrial signs are not designed to be read by high speed drivers. They will be erected on a portion of the highway which will be widened especially for this purpose. The signs will be placed on a drive-in allowing its readers to pull right off the highway. This will eliminate danger to other traffic on the road.

The signs will be erected and maintained by personnel of the Department of Public Works. They are to be constructed in a manner which will allow the information plaque to be removed for quick servicing.

Industrial signs will unfold to the travelling public the discovery, development and progress of a certain industry. It will also give directions to aid the tourist in reaching the field or plant of the industry.

The inspiration to place industrial signs throughout the Province was prompted by the sign which is located close to the City of Drumheller just off the Calgary-Drumheller highway.

Five Signs This Year

This sign was erected by the Drumheller and District Board of Trade. It is entitled, "Drumheller—The Home of the Dinosaurs." Following is the information revealed by the sign:

"Gateway to famous prehistoric lands—unique geological formations—skeletons of dinosaurs—petrified animal life and vegetation from semi-tropical period—Canada's largest domestic coal field—electrical power centre for a radiius of 100 miles—centre of Alberta's finest agricultural district—Welcome to the Drumheller Valley."

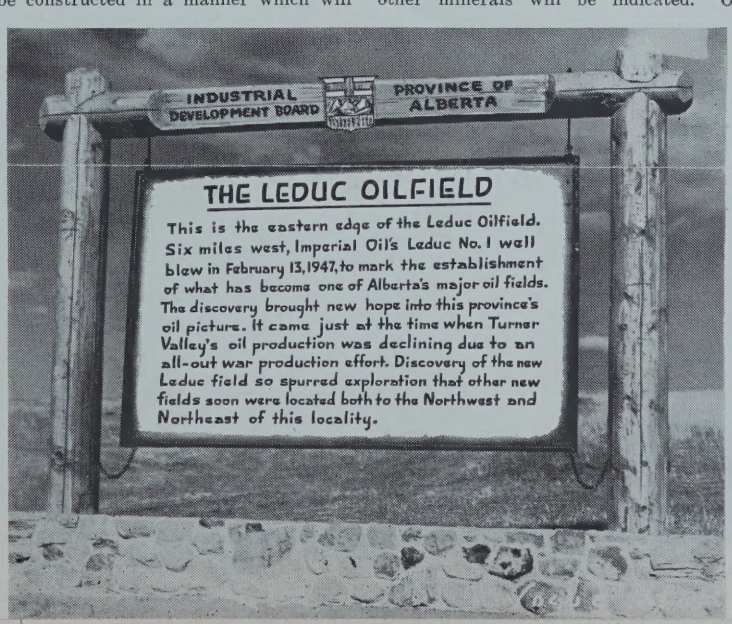
Five industrial signs will be constructed at key points on main highways in Alberta this year. They will be placed at Nisku, Exshaw, Okotoks, south of Lethbridge, and in the vicinity of Kananaskis.

More Signs In Future Years

The sign at Nisku will unfold the story of the discovery of the Leduc oilfield. In a similar manner the sign at Okotoks will tell of the Turner Valley field. Exshaw's sign will deal with the mountain of cement and that important industry there. The one located just south of Lethbridge will advise tourists that they are in the centre of the irrigation district of the Province. Tourists near Kananaskis will know thay are near the Ghost River and Kananaskis power projects.

As industries grow and develop and new industries arise, more industrial signs will indicate their location and importance. Agriculture is still Alberta's basic industry. Its various districts and branches will soon be marked by appropriate signs.

Centres of the Province's coal industry, and mining and processing of other minerals will be indicated. Other industries, only to mention a few which will reap benefits from industrial signs are: clay products, fur farming, and lumbering.


INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
THE LEDUC OILFIELD
This is the eastern edge of the Leduc Oilfield. Six miles west, Imperial Oil's Leduc No. 1 well blew in February 13, 1947, to mark the establishment of what has become one of Alberta's major oil fields. The discovery brought new hope into this province's oil picture. It came just at the time when Turner Valley's oil production was declining due to an all-out war production effort. Discovery of the new Leduc field so spurred exploration that other new fields soon were located both to the Northwest and Northeast of this locality.

Tourist and Historic Signs

Plans are now being formulated to erect similar signs to mark places of importance to tourists and also sites of great historic importance in the Province. The first signs relating to the tourist industry will be constructed and erected next spring. They will be designed to guide tourists to places of scenic and recreational value. They will also advise the tourist of the services available in various communities.

Tourist signs will be erected near Red Deer, and Wetaskiwin and near entrances to Banff, Jasper, Waterton, and Elk Island National Parks.

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used. Any material used is for immediate republication.

Correspondence concerning the publication should be addressed to the Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

In This Issue

- Industrial, Tourist and Historic Signs . . .
- Alberta Pensioners . . .
- The Picture Page . . .

16,000 Cheques Monthly

Albertans Aided By Pension Plans

Old Age Pensions In Alberta Among Highest Paid In Dominion

Every month approximately 16,000 cheques are mailed to pensioners in the Province of Alberta. Those receiving them are senior citizens, blind persons, recipients of mothers' allowances, together with the dependents and spouses of all these people.

Pensions for the aged and blind are paid under a Dominion-Provincial agreement. The basic pension is set by the dominion, and was recently raised to $40 per month. Before an agreement is completed between the two governments the Province must have legislation authorizing the entire plan. The Province then pays the entire amount, and is re-imbursed from the dominion treasury for 75 percent of the total basic scale.

In the Province of Alberta it was long considered that the basic scale was inadequate and so in April, 1942, a supplementary allowance was initiated. This supplementary allowance is being paid wholly by the Alberta government, a practice which has since been followed in some of the other provinces. Beginning at $5 the supplementary allowance was raised to $7.50 per month, effective June 1, 1949. This has been paid to all old age and blind pensioners of Alberta as long as they continue to reside in any one of the three western provinces, and without regard to the means test.

$40 Basic Maximum

The maximum monthly old age pension payable in Alberta is now the $40 basic pension, plus the suplementary allowance of $7.50. In addition, hospital, medical, dental and optical services are provided free to all pensioners residing in Alberta, regardless of which province they may have come from. This adds another three or four dollars per month to the benefits received. It is true that no pensioner receives hospital or other such benefits unless he is sick, but the fact remains that the per capita cost to the Province of providing these services works out to this amount on a monthly basis, and so it may be fairly added to the total pension.

There can be no doubt that provision for medical care, hospitalization, optical and dental services when required add immeasurably to the peace of mind of all those who come within the scope of these measures. Fear of sickness is itself an onerous burden for an individual to carry, and when this burden is removed life in general assumes a brighter hue.

Here are the qualifications required to make our citizens eligible for pension: The principal requirements are age, residence and income. For an old age pensioner the age at which pension may be granted is 70 years, and for the blind pensioner the age is 21 years. The act requires that an applicant must have resided in Canada for 20 years immediately preceding the date at which payment commences, but special provisions are made for those who have been absent from Canada during that 20-year period.

Income Allowable

Regarding income the maximum allowable in the case of an unmarried old age pensioner is $600 per year while in the case of married pensioners the maximum is $1,080 per year, including pensions in both cases. Higher amounts are allowed for blind pensioners and for married old age pensioners whose spouses are blind.

To carry out the free hospitalization and treatment plan, an authorization card is issued to each pensioner. Names of the pensioner, his or her spouse and their dependents up to the age of 18 years appear on the card and on the reverse side there is a list of services available. It is essential that this card be presented to the physician or dentist at the time the patient applies for any of the benefits. Officials in charge of administering the entire plan emphasize the importance of these cards. They point out that pensioners may be held responsible for the expenses incurred if they fail to present the card to the practitioner concerned at the time the service is required. A further point which should be borne in mind is that new cards must be issued whenever a dependent reaches the age of 18. In these cases the old card must be retained. Considerable confusion and needless delay and inconvenience have been occasioned where this practice has been neglected.

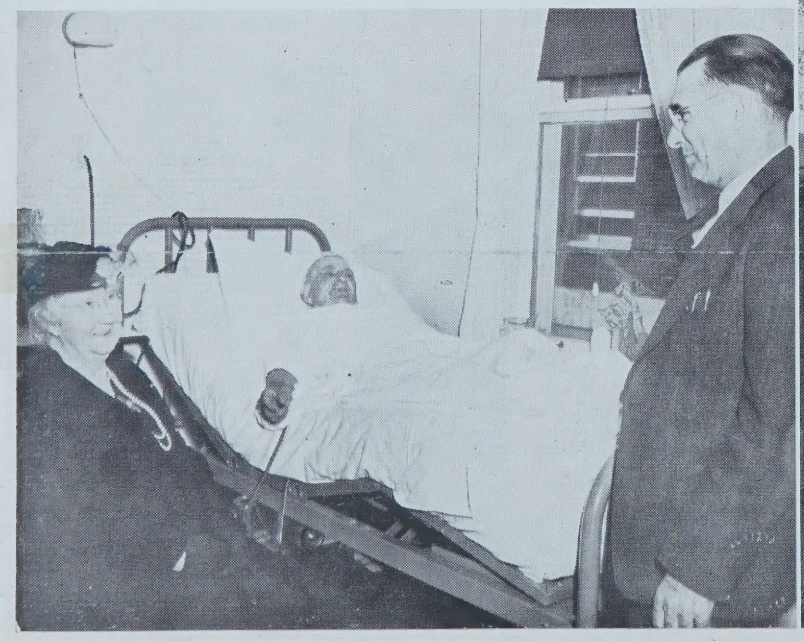
Main Services

Five main types of services are listed on the back of the authorization card. Here is an outline of these services:

1. **Medical and surgical services.** The pensioner may proceed to his local physician or sugeon at any time he feels that he requires medical attention. Upon presentation of the authorization card the pensioner is given the most expensive surgical procedures where necessary or the most simple medical consultation, regardless of cost.

2. **Free hospitalization** is available to the pensioner or to those listed on his card if this is recommended by the attending physician. Where hospitalization is not so urgent, application is usually made through the Hospital and Medical Division of the Department of Health, and entrance is approved. In either case progress reports are required at the end of each 21-day period, and if it is felt that further hospitalization will not benefit the patient, the hospital is notified to this effect. Hospitalization includes public ward accommodation in an approved hospital, together with drugs, dressings, X-rays and appliances recommended by the attending physician.

3. **Dental services** available to pensioners and their dependents include the extraction of teeth, fillings, anterior bridgework, and fifty percent of the cost of new dentures. The patient must pay the other fifty percent of the cost of dentures, and any posterior bridgework which he may require. The same procedure as in regard to medical or hospital services is followed.



News from relatives and friends is always welcome . . .

Health services mean freedom from these worries for pensioners . . .

—Alberta Government Photos.

4. **Glasses are issued free of charge** when required, but not oftener than once per year. For this service one of two procedures must be followed. If the pensioner lives in the vicinity of an oculist (a medical eye specialist) he may go to the specialist direct if he so desires. The prescription is then forwarded to the division office and if approved sent to the optical supply house which provides the glasses. On the other hand, a pensioner wishing to go to an optometrist, must first secure a written recommendation from his physician, and when approved by the director of medical service the examination may be proceeded with in much the same manner as outlined above.

5. **Special services are available** to pensioners. These must be recommended by the local physician and approved by the divison. They include such services as chiropractic, osteopathic and physiotherapist treatments.

The scheme whereby pensioners of all kinds are given these vital services was inaugurated on June 1, 1947. It is one of the steps which many people hope is leading progressively to complete health services for all Alberta residents. Before that becomes an accomplished fact, many difficulties must, of course, be overcome. Chief of these is the cost of providing such an expensive plan. As it is applied now the total cost reached just under $1,000,000 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1949. In round figures hospitalization cost $512,000 for that period, and medical services accounted for another $387,000. Dental services for the year cost the Province $55,000 while the cost of optical care was $24,000.

Costs Millions Annually

While on the question of costs, it is noted that in the month of June, 1949, the total amount paid out to old age pensioners was $492,372. Alberta's 425 blind pensioners were paid $12,739 for the same month, and mothers' allowances totalled $66,527. Not counting the cost of hospital and medical services already quoted, that means the total of pensions paid to the various groups and their dependents was $571,638 for June. Assuming that this was an average month, the total of pensions paid to eligible Albertans is approximately $6,855,000 for the year. It is worthy of note also that the number of pensioners shows a gradual increase as time goes on, the number having increased from 15,212 in January to 15,702 for the month of June. This could be taken to indicate that all these humanitarian services are resulting in greater longevity among our citizens.

Other Income Considered

The "Means Test" is briefly and simply taking account of the applicant's income and assets in order to determine that portion of the maximum pension to which he or she may be entitled. Eligibility for pension is determined by an act passed by the dominion government, and restrictions which are so often subject to criticism are contained in the act itself. In the application of the "Means Test," for example, a single pensioner may own his or her own small home as long as it is used exclusively as the residence of the pensioner. In addition, he or she may have other assets valued at approximately $2,000 and still be eligible for the maximum old age pension. If rent is received from the home in addition to the assets mentioned, the pension is reduced accordingly.

A married couple living in their own home may have additional assets of $6,000 where only one of them is eligible for pension, but if they receive rents from the home or have other means such as superannuation, a reduced pension may be paid. If a couple are both eligible for pension they may enjoy exclusive use of their dwelling and possess additional assets of approximately $3,000 without reduction of maximum pension for both. However, the amount may be reduced in such a case if they have additional means.

Transfer Property

There have been cases where applicants for pensions have transferred considerable property to someone else in order to qualify for the full amount. The practice naturally is frowned upon by pension authorities. To check it, regulations provide that where an applicant or his spouse has made an assignment or transfer of property exceeding $500 in value within five years preceding the date of the application complete information concerning the deal must be furnished. All such transfers are presumed to have been made in order to qualify for the pension unless evidence proving the contrary is submitted to the board.

There are some who believe that the government takes property away from pensioners. This is not true. Pensioners may enjoy the use of their property as outlined above during their lives and it may be left by will to the spouse after the death of the pensioner. Further, upon the death of the pensioner or his spouse $2,000 of the estate may be willed to any relative. The government may file a claim upon whatever there may be over the $2,000, but if any person has helped take care of the pensioner, such a person is considered to have as good an perhaps a better claim on the estate than the government. In these cases the pension board usually waives its claim to the estate.

Living Costs High

It is often said the present scale of old age and other pensions is inadequate. Few, if any, will disagree. With the cost of milk, meat, bread and eggs at their present levels, it takes a sizable income to meet the bare cost of living. Government officials would undoubtedly like to see a higher scale of pensions, but within the rigid limits of the present system of securing the funds necessary to pay pensions, any substantial increase is considered unlikely. Even a few dollars more for each monthly pension would amount to a large sum in the aggregate. While government budgets are dependent upon taxes and the present limited source of revenue, all essential services must be curtailed accordingly.

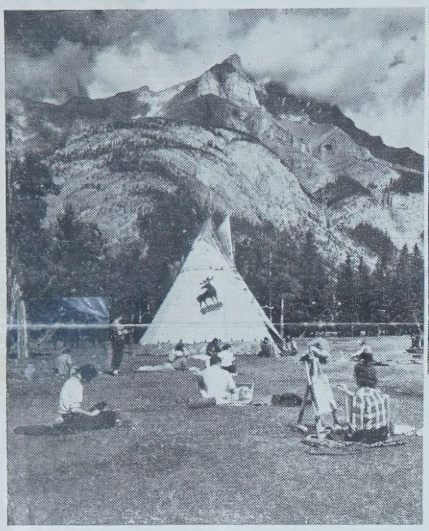
On the other hand, the picture is not altogether one of desperation. Mr. and Mrs. "X", both on pension, own their modest little home. They are paid as much as $95.00 per month in cash. And they are eligible for medical care, hospitalization, dental and optical care whenever these services are needed. They have a garden plot, and from this they get not only many hours of pleasant exercise in the fresh air, but what is equally important, an abundance of vegetables and even small fruits which can be used fresh or preserved for the winter months. More than that, Mrs "X's" busy and clever needle can and does work miracles with a piece of cloth and a length of thread.

It is pleasant to picture Alberta pensioners in such comfortable circumstances. It may be overdrawn as applied to some cases, but it serves to suggest, not the adequacy of present arrangements, but rather the possibility of peace and happiness in the declining years of our citizens. * * *

An enjoyable hobby, this small greenhouse provides garden plants . . .

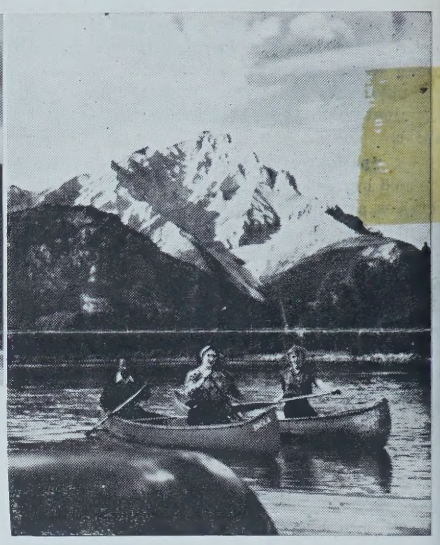
Gardening brings happy hours and added beauty to the little home . . .

A WITHIN OUR BORDERS PICTURE PAGE



Outdoor art classes are popular.

This group represents the cosmopolitan picture of the school. They are from left to right: Miss Gladys Shenner, Brandon, Manitoba; Miss Barbara Bennet, Ottawa; Vincent S. Manansala, Manila, Philippines; Miss Louis Jean Buckleau, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and Mario Garson, Pasto, Colombia, S.A.



Canoe rides are a must in the Canadian Rockies.

Banff Fine Arts School Offers Wide Program

Located in the Canadian Rockies and offering nearby picturesque rivers and lakes—that's the Banff School of Fine Arts, which was established by the University of Alberta in 1933.

Today the school offers a wide selection of courses in art, music, drama, handicrafts, ,oral French, and now a vocal course has been added this year. Two types of courses are offered by the school. A general course for students taking the subjects professionally or for their own recreation and enjoyment, and a university credit course. This latter course is designed for college students and teachers who are concerned with obtaining academic credits. Both groups study under the direction of a staff of distinguished teachers gathered together from Canada, the United States and England.

Last year more than 600 students attended the classes. They came from every province in Canada, 22 states of the United States, Labrador, Africa, New Zealand, Hawai.

An extension to the Banff school, an art school at Jasper, was offered for the first time in 1948. As the classes increase so grows the school. Three new chalets and a bungalow court are being constructed at the Banff site.

The Banff Schol of Fine Arts offers a definite recreational adventure and a stimulating intellectual and artistic experience.

A large number of scholarships are available to the students of the Banff School of Fine Arts. Most of these are to the value of tuition fees in various divisions of the school, but a few include room and board.

Scholarships available in Alberta include four in theatre; three in art; three in music; five in weaving and five in oral French.

In Saskatchewan four scholarships are available for courses at the school. They are to the value of tuition fees and are offered through the Saskatchewan Drama League. The scholarships are open to Saskatchewan students in art and one in oral French.

The province of Manitoba offers two scholarships in arts and three in theatre. Two of the latter are awarded by the office of Adult Education, university of Manitoba, and one by the Banff School of Fine Arts. Also one in oral French.

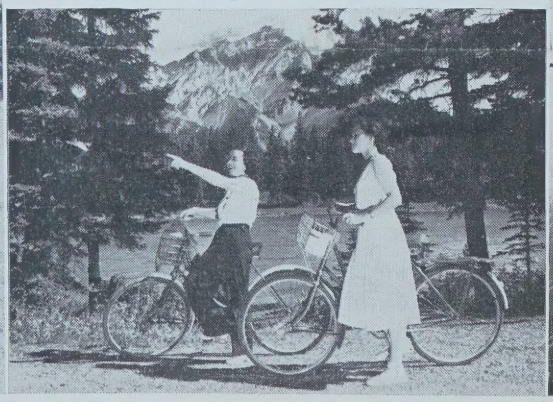
Two art scholarships and two theatre scholarships are open to the students from British Columbia. There is also one offered in oral French.

Three theatre scholarships are open to students in the Rocky Mountain region of the United States.

In addition to the foregoing scholarships, a further number are sponsored by private persons, school boards and service organizations.

A favorite outing of the students is the daily landscape classes held morning and afternoon, at selected locations in and around Banff. In addition special painting trips are organized to such world-famed beauty spots as Moraine Lake, Lake Louise, Bow Lake, Jasper, Emerald Lake, Johnson's Canyon, Canmore and other places. * * *

Toronto's Jean Allen captures scenic beauty with a brush.



Ruby Mayo, left and Marjorie Gentleman cycle over mountain roads.

Sing-Songs are always popular among the students.

—Alberta Government Photos.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library